

year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes" requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. BYRD, Mr. GREGG, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CAMPBELL, and Mr. COCHRAN, be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2510. An act to extend the expiration date of the Defense Production Act of 1950, and for other purposes.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would inquire of the distinguished majority leader the schedule for the remainder of the evening and next week.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the House has completed its legislative business for the week. Let me say that again, Mr. Speaker: I am so very pleased that the House has completed its legislative business for the week.

The House will next meet for morning business on Monday, September 24, at 12:30 p.m. and 2 o'clock p.m. for legislative business. The House will consider a number of measures under suspension of the rules, and a continuing resolution.

On Monday, no recorded votes are expected before 6 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the House will consider the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, and I am also hopeful that the House will be able to complete consideration of H.R. 2586, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2002.

On Wednesday, only if it is necessary for the House to be in session, we will complete the business for the week. No votes are expected past 2 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his information this evening. I would ask him two questions:

Number one, I gather from his remarks with respect to Wednesday next that if we finish the business of the House Tuesday, that we will be finished, so Members who need to get back for religious holidays will be able to do so.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, we are

going to work as hard as we can, and in full cooperation, I am sure, with all the Members to try to complete our work on Tuesday night. Members need to be home by sundown, and sometimes that is California or someplace else on the West Coast. We want to give them every opportunity to get an early start in the morning so they can accomplish that.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague.

Finally, I would ask my friend, the gentleman from Texas, we had a lengthy debate today on the airline bill, and a good piece of that debate centered over the Speaker's commitment to the membership of this body on the benefits for workers that have lost their jobs from the airline disaster, and the airline industry's economic problems.

I am just interested, if the gentleman from Texas could enlighten us, and I do not expect to have a complete answer here, given the fact that this was just done today, but when in fact we might expect action on legislation that was discussed on the floor in the colloquy between the Speaker and the leader.

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Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I thank the gentleman for the question, and just to be clear, the Speaker's exact words earlier this evening were, and I quote, the committees of jurisdiction have already been examining proposals to assist in this area. We will take a comprehensive look at the health care needs of these displaced workers and work together to bring an appropriate legislative response to the floor as soon as possible.

It is my interpretation that by that the Speaker meant the committees of jurisdiction are working; and at whatever point they can report legislation, we would make the floor available for that legislation. I simply cannot speak for the committees' work.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague for that. I just want to encourage the gentleman from Texas and the rest of the leadership on the Republican side of the aisle to help expedite the hearing process and the committee process on this legislation. As I think the gentleman from Texas is aware, regretfully the numbers of laid-off workers have increased dramatically, especially, of course, in the airline industry; and we are probably going to see a fallout in some ancillary industries and other industries. I think it would be prudent, wise, and just to expect that we will move with some alacrity on these issues of health care, unemployment compensation, and, of course, training, when necessary.

It is not as if this is a difficult thing to do. It is pretty standard when we enter these economic downturns. And moving with some degree of speed on this would, I think, be appreciated, especially given the nature of the situation our country finds itself in today. So I will continue to raise this issue on

a regular basis, with respect, but with urgency and with some passion. And I just want the gentleman to know that this is an issue that will be before us on many occasions as we go through these next weeks.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I do have an inquiry of the majority leader. I do join the gentleman in the fervent hope we can complete our business for the week by Tuesday night. In the event that it was necessary for us to convene on Wednesday morning, could we convene at 9 a.m., in the hopes that maybe we could wrap up our business on Wednesday morning and not continue into Wednesday afternoon?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman from Michigan will yield further.

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the inquiry. The gentleman makes a very good point, and I have to say, I think in full confidence, that as a matter of respect for our colleagues, should we have to propound such a unanimous consent request, I would guess that the gentleman would hear a resounding silence when asked if there were any objections. I appreciate the question.

Mr. SHERMAN. I thank the majority leader for doing everything possible to accommodate us.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY)?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

APOLOGY TO SIKHS, MUSLIMS, AND ANYONE ELSE TAKING OFFENSE AT PRIOR STATEMENTS

(Mr. COOKSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)